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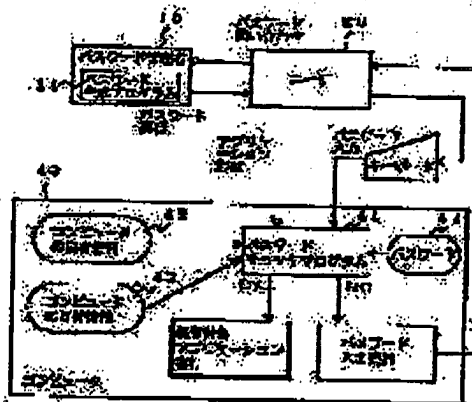
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(54) SOFTWARE COPYING PREVENTION METHOD

(57)Abstract

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To limit the illegal copying of software without causing any inconvenience to a user by generating a password based on the inherent information, collating the password with the registered one and starting the software only when both passwords are matched with each other.

SOLUTION: When a normal user 20 activates software (application to be protected), a password check program 41 collects the inherent information 42 and data information 43 on a computer 40 and generates the ID of the computer 40. Then a password is generated, based on the ID of the computer 40, and collated with the password that is previously inputted and held when the software was first used. If both passwords are matched with each other, the execution of the application to be protected is permitted. Thus, the application of software can be suppressed to the users other than the user 20 without causing any inconvenience to the user 20. Furthermore, the application of software can be limited and also such user 20 who doesn't renew yet his application contract of software is inhibited from using the software.



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